THE NATIONL FINANCES. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY ON THE STATE OF THE PINANCES. TREASURY DEPARTMENT, DEC. 4, 1854 SIR: In obedience to the "Act supplementary to the act entitled 'An act to establish the Treasury Department," approved May 10, 1800, the following report is The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of From lands..... Miscellaneous..... And the estimated receipts for the other

2d quarter—from customs. from lands....

3d quarter-from customs

4th quarter-from customs.

miscellaneous.

from lauds.....

Balance in the Treasury 1st of July, 1853 21,942,802 56

The receipts from customs were......\$64,224,190 27

miscellaneous.....

The usual and ordinary expenditures were as follow:

from lands.

Total sum for the service of the fiscal year

The actual expenditures for each quar-

For 1st quarter......\$15,081,383 70

Leaving a balance in the Treasury on July

Navy Department.....

From lands.....

Add estimated balance in the Treasury

Estimated resources for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1855.....

priations to be expended during the year............\$6,865,126 44 Permanent and indefinite

appropriations to be expended during the year, 8,285,716 14

Leaving in the Treasury July 1, 1855, a

Miscellaneous

Civil, miscellaneous, and foreign inter-

Interior Department.....

Total expenditures.....as appears in detail from table 2.

year are now estimated as follow:

From customs.....

Deficiency in the Post Office Department..

Total estimated expenditures for the year

mated expenditures for the remaining three quarters are \$64,345,921 21, leaving an estimated balance in the Treasury on the 1st day of July, 1855, of \$19,762,046 29.

There is always, at the close of the fiscal year,

balance thus estimated, not expended, of at least \$12,000,000. That \$12,000,000 may be applied to the purchase of the public debt during the remaining three quarters without disturbing the estimated balance in the

Making ..

Treasury.

1856, are as follow:

course

War Department.....

The receipts for the remaining three quarters of the

500,000 00

The estimated expenditures for the same year were as

... 35,909,434 54

July 1, 1854.....

follow: Balance of former appro-

Specific appropriations ask-ed for the service of the

1, 1854, of.....

2d quarter..... 22,361,896 24

3d quarter..... 12,448,947 42

4th quarter 25,522,402 90

ending June 30, 1854.....

Balance in Treasury.....

ter of said year were-

\$60,869,833 37\$21,942,892 56 Leaving the sum of \$21,892,212 92 on the 1st of July, Upon this estimate of the receipts and expenditures of the fiscal year 1856 there will be a balance in the Treasury on the 1st of July, 1856, of \$21,392.212 92, without expending any thing in the redemption of the public debt; but if \$12,000,000 shall be applied to the redemption of 1,489,562 05 three quarters were : It appears the receipts from customs for the second, third, and fourth quarters of the fiscal year 1854 were\$37,000,000 00 From lands 3,000,000 00 not diminished from the pressure in the money market and other causes, as expected in my former report. They were kept up from importations, growing out of large exports of provisions, caused by the scarcity in England and France and the expected demands of the and coffee, and it was thought would leave the operation of the cause it seemed to have had the sanction of Congress and the people as to ten and coffee, and it was thought would leave the operation of the cause it seemed to have Making the actual receipts for the first 21,942,892 56 Total for service of the year..... 83,599,271 48 of ours. The actual expenditures of the first quarter of the fiscal They were also kept up by a greater uniformity and year 1853 were \$15,081,383.70, and the estimated expenditures for the remaining three quarters were \$67,251,283.16, making for the actual expenditures of the first quarter and the estimated expenditures for the better valuation of foreign goods, and a diminution in smuggling, caused by increased vigilance on the part of the revenue officers. The foreign and internal immigra-tion to the new States and Territories, combined with other three quarters \$72,332,666.86; which would have speculative investments in the public lands, greatly in-creased the receipts from that source; so that, instead of left an estimated balance in the Treasury on the 1st of July, 1854, of \$11,266,604.62.

19,895,725 12

16.924.789 86

.873, 1 9 705 20

21,942,892 56

Add the estimated balance in the Treasu-

Salance of former appropriations, to be

for the service of the fiscal year 1856. Estimated expenditures for the fiscal year 1856:

.\$11,212,905

Making the estimated sum of.

The actual receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year ending 30th of June, 1854, were as follows:

1st quarter—from customs.

1,489,562 05

miscellaneous.

21,256,278,99 21,356,378 92 that kept up the receipts from customs and lands for the last three quarters of the fiscal year 1854, aided, as to

last three quarters of the fiscal year 1854, aided, as to lands, to some extent, by the effect of the act graduating the price, which operated in favor of the receipts for the latter half of the quarter.

The receipts from customs for the remaining three quarters of the year cannot be in proportion to those of the first quarter, owing to the reciprocity treaty introducing free trade with the British colonies and the short crops in almost all portions of the country, which must materially affect the exportation of provisions and the return importations, and diminish the ability to purchase rtations, and diminish the ability to purchase and pay for foreign goods. The effect of a scarcity of provisions, with consequent high prices, has always been to diminish the consumption of other articles of customary use, and may be expected to operate on the importations for the remaining three quarters of the year, as it certain-2,745,251 59 113,656 10 ly will on the consumption.

Moreover, the United States have enjoyed a long period

of agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial prosperi-ty, under extended bank and other credit facilities, backed by the immense production of gold from the mines of California. This has led to large speculative investments in railroads, lands, lots, houses, ships, stocks, and other enterprises, and to enhanced prices for rents, labor, provisions, and all the necessaries of life. The bank and credit facilities have been in check for more than a year, 8,470,798 39 with a prospect of a continued check; whilst the large 854,716 54 and extended indebtedness of operators has to be met under receding prices, without the stimulating effect of new enterprises. This will also act in restraint of importa-

\$95,492,597 76 tions and consumption.

In the estimated receipts from customs for the three remaining quarters of the current fiscal year the effects of the reciprocity treaty and reduced importations have been considered; whilst, also, the same causes will operate in the sale of the public lands; but the effect of the act graduating the price has been considered sufficient to keep up the receipts from the latter source to what they \$75,854,680 26 were for the fiscal year 1854.

The estimate of receipts for the fiscal year 1856 has been made from an expectation that the same causes which will operate to reduce the importations and consumption of foreign goods for the remaining three quarters of the fiscal year 1865 will be continued through a part of the succeeding year and sensibly affect the im-7,726,677 18 13,531,310 83

Foreign intercourse. 7,726,677 13
Miscellaneous 13,531,310 33
Miscellaneous 2,609,054 75
War Department 2,609,054 76
War Department 10,768,192 89
Redemption of public debt, interest and premium 24,336,380 66

Total expenditures 575,354,630 26
Balance in the Treasury on July 1, 1854, \$20,137,967.50, as appears in detail per statement 1.

The accompanying table 3 exhibits the particulars of the public debt on the 1st of July, 1854, to which is appended a table exhibiting the interest paid on the public debt during the fiscal year 1854, and the principal, interest, and premium, on the part redeemed within that year. Table 5 exhibits the principal, interest, and premium on the public debt redeemed from the 1st of July, 1854, to the 20th of November 1854.

as appears in detail per statement 1.

The estimated receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1855, were as follow: vember, 1854. From these tables it appears that the sum of \$20,098,-## From these tables it appears that he sum of \$22,73 of the public debt was redeemed between the 1st trollers and the Commissioner of Customs, which accompanies this report, numbered from 14 to 22, inclusive, exhibits the interest and premium paid on the amount redeemed was \$3,345,545.23; and the principal, interest, and premium \$355,000,000 00 on that part of the public debt redeemed between the 1st trollers and the Commissioner of Customs, which accompanies this report, exhibits the party this report, numbered from 14 to 22, inclusive, exhibits the coinage at the United States mint from the year 1792 to their respective offices. They are all in good order, and \$355,000,000 00 on that part of the public debt redeemed between the 1st the current business is promptly and, it is believed, corally and the sum of the sum of the current business is promptly and, it is believed, corally and the sum of the sum of the current business is promptly and, it is believed, corally and the sum of the sum of the current business from the section of the tember, 1821, to, the 30th day of June, 1854; and the table 32, which accompanies this report, exhibits the coinage at the United States mint from the year 1792 to the sum of the sum of the current business is promptly and, it is believed, corally and the sum of the current business is promptly and, it is believed, corally and the sum of the sum of the sum of the current business is promptly and, it is believed, corally and the sum of the current business is promptly and, it is believed, corally and the sum of the current business is promptly and, it is believed, corally and the sum of the current business is promptly and, it is believed, corally and the sum of the current business is promptly and it is the current business in the current business is promptly and it is the current business in promptly and it is the current business in the current business in the current business in the sum of the sum o 1854, and the 20th of November, 11,266,604 62 \$2,604,208,51.

The table 6, which accompanies this report, exhibits 66,266,604 62 the tonnage engaged in our foreign and coasting trade from the year 1789 to the 30th of June, 1854. It will be seen the increase for the last year has been 395,892,-

20.95 tons.

The table 7, which accompanies this report, exhibits our exports and imports for the same time; and the table 8, which also accompanies this report, exhibits the sums received into the Treasury frem customs, public lands, miscellaneous sources, including loans and Treasury notes, and the tariff, and particular price of the public lands under which the same was received; also, the annual expenditures during the same period. From the table of exports and imports it appears the imports are \$26,321,317 Making an aggregate of 51,060,277 12

in excess of the exports, no account being taken of the precious metals brought in by emigrants.

The profits on our exports and the freights earned by our ships in foreign trade ought to more than cover this The exports include over \$58,000,000 of specie The receipts of the first quarter of the fiscal year end-great interests of the country. These tables combined our Government, and prove that the receipts into the Treasury are sufficient to meet all reasonable expendicharge the public debt, and allow a reduction of the rate of taxation, with almost the certainty that our 2 175 787 18 increasing commerce will give an increase of revenue equal to the reasonable demands of the future.

2,508,791 09 Therefore, I feel it necessary again to call the attention of Congress to the propriety of reducing the revenue 1,876,013 17 from customs, so that no more money shall be received into the Treasury than is required for an economical ad-ministration of the Government. The reduction proposed \$16,169,330 62 in my former report, as carried out by the bill prepared in this Department, and the reduction proposed in the bill prepared and reported by the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, would each have effected the object of bringing the receipts from 6,000,000 00

customs to the proposed revenue standard.

The present tariff has eight schedules, or different tates of duties, as follow: The first of 100 per cent., The receipts for the first quarter, the estimated rethe second of 40 per cent , the third of 30 per cent., the and the fifth of 5 per cent. And the bill prepared at this Department, and which is substantially the one reported by the minority of the committee of the House of Representatives, has but two rates of duty: The first of 100 per cent. and the second of 25 per cent. There are difficulties in 2,719,464 00 3,188,655 25 11,258,095 71 he execution of the present tariff growing out of the requir-2,370,093 60 ed classification under the eight schedules; and these diffiulties continue to increase by the acts of the manufacturers in assimilating one class of goods to another and in ascertaining the material of chief value in the fabrics. \$64,345,921 21 The difficulties would be reduced under the bill of the committee, and would entirely disappear under that pro-The expenditures of the first quarter and the esti-

osed by the Department.

The bill of the committee, with the tables herewith annexed, exhibits the revenue from customs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852, and what has been the revenue under the present tariff for the average of six years, including 1853, and what would have been the receipts for the same periods under the bill of the committee and under the one recommended by this Department. These tables only include the enumerated articles in the bill of the committee, leaving the sum of about \$2,000,000 revenue from unenumerated

sum of about \$2,000,000 revenue from unenumerated articles; but they are sufficient to explain the character of the present tariff, the one proposed by the committee, and the ene by the Department.

Herewith is also presented exhibit 10, containing the free list proposed by this Department, to which is added the English tariff on the same articles; from which it will be seen that the English tariff makes most of these articles from a day for as those articles. articles free; and, as far as these articles are used in the arts and manufactures, most of them are free of duty under the laws of other manufacturing nations. Under the English tariff the raw materials used in the arts and manufactures have been made free of duty, whilst our

and thus, to the extent of the duty on the raw material, the English manufacturer has a decided advantage over manufacturers of the United States in the markets of other nations, whilst the effect of the tariff of 1846 is

reduced in our own markets. In the revision of the tariff, for the purpose of reducing In the revision of the tariff, for the purpose of reducing the revenue, it was deemed expedient and proper to take away the advantages accruing to the manufactures of other countries, under their free list, by making the same articles free under our laws, except as to the article of wool, and as to that article, on the coarser wools. Under the reciprocity treaty wool from the British Provinces will be admitted free of duty.

In 1858 the importations of wool and woollen goods amounted to aver \$20,000,000, and the wool and the year.

amounted to over \$30,000,000, and the wool and the va-lue of the wool in the manufactured article amounted to at least \$10,000,000. This was over and above the amount produced in the country, and affords satisfactory evidence that sufficient wool is not produced in the counthe public debt, which may be done, there will remain an estimated balance in the Treasury of \$9,392,212 92.

It appears the receipts from quaterns for the state of the public debt, which for the consumption. The consumption of wool in the United States for the year 1852 is estimated at 200,000,000 pounds, of which 60,000,000 is the consumption.

of 119,000,000 imported in manufactures of wool.

The proposed addition of articles of general consumption to the free list, such as salt, &c., was deemed more England and France and the expected demands of the European war, and by the shipments to this country of foreign manufacturers, who, owing to the want of a remunerating market in those countries, sought the benefit articles. The addition of unadulterated wines was made to promote our commercial intercourse with wine-producing countries.

The present tariff, the bill of the committee of the House of Representatives, and that of this Department impose the like duty of 100 per cent. on spirits imported. The bill of the committee reduces the schedules of the present tariff from 40, 30, and 25 per cent. to 20 per cent., transposition of articles from one schedule to another; whilst that of the Department imposes a duty of 25 per cent on all articles not made free; most of the articles in the thing is purchased under execution for the debt, in whole 15, 10, and 5 per cent. schedules of the present tariff having been added to the free list, there being no just reason Auditor, Comptroller, and Register until a re-sale is made ing been added to the free list, there being no just reason why the articles not added to the free list should not pay

the higher rate of 25 per cent.

The table 11, which accompanies this report, exhibit The table 11, which accompanies this report, exhibits the amount that would have been collected for the year 1853 under the present tariff, the bill of the committee, and that of the Department, and what would have been collected under each schedule of the bill of the committee, and affords evidence that the 5th schedule will not pay the expenses of collection. Indeed, it is believed the advantages of these schedules will be counterbalanced the increased difficulties and expense of collection.

This might be remedied by a Treasury regulation causing the proper entries to be made on the books of the Auditor, Comptroller, and Register, and opening in each office an account of the lands, &c. purchased for the United States after the same are discharged.

This might be remedied by a Treasury regulation causing the proper entries to be made on the books of the Auditor, Comptroller, and Register. Thus the books of the Treasury exhibit belances due the United States after the same are discharged.

Auditor, Comptroller, and Register. Thus the books of the Treasury exhibit belances due the United States after the same are discharged.

This might be remedied by a Treasury regulation causing the proper entries to be made on the books of the Auditor, Comptroller, and Register. Thus the books of the Treasury exhibit belances due the United States after the same are discharged.

This might be remedied by a Treasury regulation causing the proper entries to be made on the books of the Auditor, Comptroller, and Register. by the increased difficulties and expense of collection. Whether the general rate should be 20 or 25 per cent. is a question of some doubt. It was thought that a reduction to 20 per cent. might have the effect of increasing the re-

and adulterated wines, and whether silks and some other sumptuary articles should not be added to that schedule. Upon mature reflection, I am fully satisfied that the sche-

The table 12, which accompanies this report, exhibits the articles manufactured in the United States which have formed a part of our exports for the years 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, and 1854. It will be seen from this table that there has been a great increase in the annual export of articles manufactured in this country. It may be fairly calculated that the 29 also accompanies this. The business in the office of \$26,000,000 and upwards of manufactured articles extended that the 320 also accompanies this. The business in the office of \$26,000,000 and upwards of manufactured articles extended that the 320 also accompanies this. ported during the fiscal year 1854 will continue gradually o increase until the manufactures of the United States shall constitute a fair proportion of our foreign exports. In recognising, as I do, the principle that duties should be levied for revenue and not for protection, I have considered it no departure from the principle to counteract the legislation of other countries, and make the same articles free under our laws that are free under theirs: knowing, also, that there never has been a tariff law enacted under the constitution in which some articles were

not allowed to be imported free of duty.

The table 13, which accompanies this report, exhibits duties to the amount of \$1,524,457.40 on the articles made free by the reciprocity treaty with Great Britain during the fiscal year 1854; to which extent the annual revenue

recommendation is renewed, and the subject of drawback duties on refined sugar is recommended to the consideration of Congress. The same principle would require like draw-backs on all exported articles on which there is a duty on the raw material used in their manufacture.

The reports of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Auditors, and of the First and Second Comprectly done; and, beside, considerable progress has been | United States mint and branches, from our own mines made in closing the large unsettled balances that stood from the year 1804 to the 30th day of September, 1854. open on the books of the Treasury, as stated in my former Under the act of 1853 there has been \$16,152,170 of open on the books of the Treasury, as stated in my former

April, 1853, at..... And there had been settled up to the date 30,500,154 50 of that report

been reduced by settlements, collections, &c. as follow: In the office of the First and Fifth Auditors, per report of the First Comptroller of the Treasury \$65,237,291 47 Corrections in the same ... 1,001,020 00 In the office of the First Auditor, per report of the Commissioner of 2,523,872 72 In the office of the Second. Third, and Fourth Auditors, per report of the Second Comptroller 4,924,265 64 In the office of the Auditor for the Post Office De-

ter of the Treasury 851,285 50 74,438,400 97 Leaving yet unclosed. The reports of the First and Second Comptrollers and

400,715 64

tem of accounting enforced. Comptroller is inadequate to the increased business in the former and the increased business and arrearages in the latter; and it was not possible to give the required addible increase of \$112,680,222, with specie in their varsts in 1850-51 of \$48,671,048, and in 1853-54 of \$59,410,253, being an increase of \$10,739,205. These tables exhibit latter; and it was not possible to give the required additional force by transfers from other offices, owing in part to the curtailment of five cierks in the Third Auditor's office, one in the Second Auditor's office, and one in the Second Comptroller's, from the failure to estimate for the Independent Treasury of the United States, re-

Sixth Auditor and the First Comptroller as to the neces-Sixth Auditor and the First Comptroller as to the necessity for additional force in their respective offices. It is recommended that Congress allow five additional clerks and two additional messengers to the Sixth Auditor and two additional clerks to the First Comptroller. The attention of Congress is also called to the report of the Sixth Auditor as to the necessity of additional room for the accommodation of the clerks of his office and the safety of the accumulating papers and records, with a resembled that Congress make provision for the same.

safety of the accumulating papers and records, with a re-commendation that Congress make provision for the same. It would facilitate the business and render less com-plicated the accounts of the Department should all the secounts of the Interior Department be given to the Se-cond Auditor, and all the accounts of the War Department be given to the Third Auditor, as recommended in my former report.

former report.

The attention of Congress is called to the fact that the Commissioner of the General Land Office and his clerks still occupy a portion of the Treasury building, and that the First and Fifth Auditors and their clerks, and part of the First and Fifth Auditors and their clerks, and part of the clerks of the Third Auditor, have to be accommodated in rented buildings apart from the Treasury building; al-so, that the clerical force in the building cannot be ac-commodated in suitable connexion. Under the expecta-tion that the Land Office will become ved in the course of next spring, an estimate has been submitted for the ex-pense of affording additional light and ventilation to the Treasury building, so that the rooms will be more conve-nient and comfortable, and the necessary appropriation for that purpose is recommended.

for that purpose is recommended.

The system of monthly accounts from the collectors of customs, and the actilement thereof within the succeeding month at the Treasury, has been adhered to and fully car-

tariff of 1846 imposes on those articles heavy duties; public and the officers of the revenue is more manifest

public and the officers of the revenue is more manness
the longer it is enforced.

The Department has caused the collectors' offices in all
the ports to be examined within the year, with but few
exceptions, by agents of the Department, in order to ascertain how their books and accounts were kept, and, by
personal inspection, how the official corps discharged their
duties. These examinations have enabled this Department to correct errors and omissions, and to see that the
efficial corps devote themselves in person to the duties official corps devote themselves in person to the duties confided to them, and have resulted in securing greater vigilance and a more faithful application of the revenue

The report of the Register of the Treasury (No. 26 also accompanies this. It exhibits a greatly improved condition of his office. The annual report on commerce and navigation is in advance of any former one, and wil be in print for the use of Congress at the commencement of its labors. The business of the office has been promptly

and well done.

The Solicitor of the Treasury has caused to be made out a schedule (No. 27) of all the lots and lands purchased under execution and decrees for the United States, or otherwise taken for debts due to the United States and which have heretofore been sold, and also a schedule of all such lands as are now held by the United States. They are submitted in order that Congress may have in view the sales heretofore made, and devise some suitable mode for the future sale of the property on hand, and such as may hereafter be acquired; also, for closing or crediting on the books of the Treasury such debts as have been or shall be discharged in whole or in part by the purchase of real estate; because, after accounts have been stated at the Treasury, leaving a balance due to the United States, they are passed to the Register, and ap-pear on his books, and then to the Solicitor, and appear on his books, and are then sent to the proper district at-

orney for suit.

When the debt is collected and paid into the Treasury in whole or in part, the amount so paid is entered on th boots of the Auditor, where the account was first stated, and then on the books of the Comptroller, and then on the books of the Register; but where lands or any other and the money is paid into the Treasury; and when the United States fail, in whole or in part, in the courts, no entry is made on the books of the Auditor, Comptroller,

the Treasury statements of indebtedness and the judg ment in the particular case; but it had better be regu to 20 per cent. might have the effect of increasing the re-to 20 per cent. might have the effect of increasing the re-venue by increasing the importations, whilst the duty of 25 per cent. would not probably have that effect. A question of greater difficulty was whether the rate of the Government. Yet no just statement of the condition 40 per cent. should not be retained on manufactured of the balances on the books of the Treasury can be made

until it is done.

The report of the Solicitor of the Treasury (No. 28) Upon mature reflection, I am fully satisfied that the some dule of 40 per cent. should have been retained, keeping in it wines not made free, and adding to it silks of all kinds, laces of all kinds, millinery of all kinds, and other sumptuary articles; and I now recommend that, in revising the tariff, such a schedule, specifying the articles, be district attorneys for the collection of old judgments and the propriety of authorizing the Department to make companies and settlements. The attention of Congress is also accompanies this report, and exhibits the operations promises and settlements. The attention of Congress is called to the subject, with a recommendation that the Department be authorized to allow district attorneys and others employed for that purpose a commission not exceeding ten per cent. on the amount collected.

The report of the Treasurer of the United States (No. the Treasurer has been promptly and satisfactorily performed. The money, both of the United States and the disbursing agents of the Government, deposited has been safely kept. One additional clerk for the Treasurer's office is recommended, for the reason stated by the Treasurer in his meport.

Under the 11th section of the Independent Treasury law it was thought advisable to have the offices of the assistant treasurers and the depositaries of the United States examined by an agent of the Department, and Mr. William M. Gouge was appointed to examine all of them, except that of San Francisco, California. His letter of appointment (No. 30) accompanies this report, as also his general report upon the condition and operation of the offices used as depositaries of the public money and by the disbursing agents of the Government, exhibiting a In my former report a repeal of the fishing bounties the books and the public money and the duties of the recommendation is renewed, and the sphice of the respective officers. He will be required to assistant treasurer's office at San Francisco has been examined by J. Ross Browne, another agent of the Department, and that office found in good condition, and the

business promptly and satisfactorily performed.

The table 31, which accompanies this report, exhibits the imports and exports of coin from the 30th day of September, 1821, to, the 30th day of June, 1854; and the report.

That report stated the outstanding balance on the 1st of at New Orleans, and circulated at Philadelphia, New 5 balance on the 1st of Avil 19 Vork, Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Baltimore, Washington, he date Richmond, Norfolk, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans, St. Louis, Jeffersonville, Cincinnati, San Francisco, and Pittsburgh, and furnished to citizens at various other

.102.021.549 59 places. This has tended to keep a sound currency for change in circulation and afforded great convenience to the pub lie; but the circulation of large amounts of small bank notes has contracted the benefits of the silver change in many places, or driven it away, or tied it up in the pockets of the people. The full benefit of silver coinage for change can never be realized while small bank notes are encouraged under bank charters and made current

by the patronage of the community.

These tables give some data from which an estimate may be made of the increasing amount of gold and silver coin retained in the country. The table 34, with the remarks annexed, which accompany this report, exhibits estimates made by Secretaries of the Treasury and others of the amount of gold and silver coin in the country at tember, 1854, at \$241,000,000, which is believed not to be a high estimate. Of this sum there was about \$60. 000,000 in the banks and \$26,000,000 in the United States Treasury, the rest being in circulation amongst the people

or hearded up.

It appears from the report on the banks from this De partment submitted to Congress on the 6th of May, 1854 that in 1850-'51 there were 879 banks in the United \$27,583,148 62 States, with a capital of \$227,807,588, and in 1853-54 there were 1,208 banks, with a capital of \$301,756,071,

being an increase of \$73,948,538. In 1850-'51 the circulation of the 879 banks was \$155, of the Commissioner of Customs, upon the subject of these balances, numbered 23, 24, and 25, and which accompany this report, give reason to hope that in another \$48,411,928, and together \$330,539,891; and in 1853-54. year they will be still further reduced, and a stricter sys- the circulation of the 1,208 banks was \$204,689,207, the The force in the office of the Sixth Auditor and First \$50,322,162, and together \$443,200,113; making an in-

to the curtailment of five cierks in the Third Auditor's office, one in the Second Auditor's office, and one in the Second Comptroller's, from the failure to estimate for them, and from Congress only granting eleven of the twenty-one cierks recommended by the Department.

The attention of Congress is called to the report of the Cierk Auditor and the First Comptroller as to the proof. taining the mastery and driving the constitutional cur-rency from the country. In our table of exports we find an increase in the export of coin over the previous year, but not exceeding the produce of our mines. This increase may be in part accounted for by the large redemption of the public debt held abroad and the bank circula tion, a large part of which was in small notes, circulated at a discount in places remote from the issuing bank, and forcing the better currency of gold and silver out of the

The United States having placed her receipts and expenditures upon the constitutional currency of gold and silver, it is in the power of the States, by prohibiting the banks from issuing and circulating notes of a small de-nomination, and by making the constitutional currency the basis of their own receipts and expenditures, to give the victory in all times to the constitutional currency, keep a sufficiency in the country for all the purposes of a circulating medium, and prevent the evils and losses that always attend an inferior currency. The disorder now felt in money matters grows out of

the failure of many of these banks and the curtailment of the circulation and discounts of others, which in the last six months must have reached forty or fifty millions of dollars; and in part out of the effects produced by the large imports, and in part out of the want of confi-dence between lender and borrower. It cannot be attri-buted to the shipment of gold and silver, which is nobuted to the shipment of gold and silver, which is no-thing but a consequence growing out of these causes.

The Independent Treasury has been administered in strict accordance with the provisions of the law in all respects, as stated in my former report. There has been found no difficulty in its operation nor in complying with any of the provisions of the law. The opening the Trea-surer's office at Washington and the offices of the several assistant treasurers and public depositaries as places of deposite for the disbursing agents of the Government has

advantage to the Executive Departments and the disburs-

The table 35, which accompanies this report, shows the growth of the deposite system, the number of dis-bursing agents who deposite, with the places and amount of deposite at different periods. It will be seen that in September these deposites exceeded \$3,500,000, whilst all disbursing agents who could have not availed them-selves of the privilege, and many disbursing agents could not do so because there were not depositaries convenient to their location

The returns of these deposites furnish the means of ascertaining the operations of disbursing agents, and whether the funds are kept in readiness to meet the appropriations; whilst, upon the removal, resignation, or death of a disbursing agent, the amount on deposite passes at once into the United States Treasury, and to the credit of the depositor, without the procrastination caused by having to await a settlement by the agent or an administration, and can at once be applied to the pur-poses of the appropriation through another agent.

The money thus on deposite is as safe and secure as that in the Treasury, and is without risk to the depositor; and it is right the Government, and not the disbursing agent, should be at the expense and risk of keeping

the public money until actually disbursed.

It is to be regretted that all disbursing agents convemently situated have not availed themselves of the right to deposite, because it furnishes cause of mistrust as to a strict compliance with the law, both in respect to the deposite and use of the public money, and does not give the United States the benefit of promptly obtaining the amount not disbursed upon the removal, resignation, or leath of the incumbent.

The work on the coast survey continues to make good progress, and the means appear to have been carefully and economically used. If the work shall have the continued support of Congress for a few years more, the full-est and most reliable knowledge will be obtained of our extensive coast and of all our harbors, to the great ad-vantage of our navigation and commerce. The work is recommended to the consideration of Congress, with the belief that no more convenient time will be found for its continuance and completion, nor a more able corps of officers to which it can be confided. The report of the lighthouse board (No. 37) also accom-

panies this report, and is referred to for the detailed operations for the past year. The business has been promptly and faithfully attended to in all its branches, and the system made as efficient as the time and means would allow; and it is recommended to the continued favor of Congress, in order that increased facilities may be riven to navigation in all its branches and connexion Under the appropriation of \$20,000 for continuing the system of protecting human life from shipwreck on the New Jersey coast, and \$20,000 appropriated without specification, (which the Department has thought advisable to expend on the coast of Long Island,) Mr. S. C. Dunham was appointed for the New Jersey coast and Mr. J. N. Schellinger for the Long Island coast, with instructions to examine existing stations, and report what would be needed to put them in a perfect state, and to

n each coast five instead of ten miles apart. Both these agents have reported, and are now employed in building the houses at the new stations, and providing the articles required for them and the old ones, and the additional boats have been built, and are being

shipped to the new stations.
Under the appropriation of \$12,500 for locating boats at different points on Lake Michigan, twenty-three boats have been purchased and sent to the places indicated in at different po the act. Boats for the two remaining points will be purchased and sent as soon as persons can be found to take the proper care of them; for which purpose the neces-

sary inquiries are now being instituted.

The late melancholy disaster to the ship New Era had shown the inadequacy of the mortars heretofore used for throwing lines to vessels in distress and establishing a communication between the wreck and the shore. Exeriments are now being made with a view of providing a mortar mounted and capable of throwing a ball and line the requisite distance. The appropriations will not be sufficient to place all the stations in an entirely effective condition.

The report (No. 38) from Captain A. H. Bowman, of the engineer corps, in charge of the construction of custom-houses, marine hospitals, &c., which accompanies this, rives information in detail of all that has been done toward the completion of those under the direction of this Department since the date of my last report, and of the working of the system of operations, and affords all necessary information upon that subject. The attention of Congress is particularly called to that part of the report which relates to the custom-house being built at New Orleans. It satisfactorily appears that the foundation is not sufficient for the weight and character of the superstructure, as specified in the plan according to which Congress has directed it to be built; and that there is urgent necessity to modify the plan and remedy the evil as far as practicable, and a modification of the plan, as indicated by Capt. Bowman, is recommended.

The attention of Congress is also called to the report of Capt. Bowman upon the site for a custom-house at Detroit; and it is recommended, for the reasons stated by him, that authority be given to sell the present lot and purchase a more suitable one.

The Department has selected sites for the customhouses at New Haven, Connecticut; Burlington, Vermont; Oswego, New York; Toledo and Sandusky, Ohio; Virginia, in accordance with the report of Capt. Bowman. No. 39, accompanying this, he having been sent to examine the sites offered in the several cities, and confer with the commissioners and others upon the subject; and steps are being taken to obtain the titles with a view to early action in having the buildings constructed.

The table No. 40 exhibits the sites and prices agreed to be paid in the several cities. No report was made on the site at Buffalo, New York, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Burlington, Iowa, for the reasons stated in the same report. There has not been time for information from New Orleans since instructions were issued to obtain offers for a

site for the marine hospital there.

The Department, having learned of an embezzlement of bullion by one of the officers at the mint at Philadelphia, determined to have the mint and course of business in vestigated and a detailed report made, with a view to the better security of its operations. Messrs. Richard Smith and J. C. Pickett were appointed for that purpose. A copy of the letter of appointment (No. 41) and their report accompany this, with a copy of the new regulathe sanction of this Department, for the government of the mint and branches. They are submitted to Congress different periods, and gives the amount on the 30th Sep. for such additional legislation as the circumstances may seem to require.

The condition of the mint at Philadelphia, as to safety

as a depository and security from fire, was examined by Capt. Bowman, under the direction of this Department. His report (No. 42) accompanies this, and states the necessity of giving the same greater security as a mint and depository, and of its being made fire-proof; and estimates are submitted for the alterations, and also for improving the vaults of the Treasury building at Washington. In Capt. Bowman's general report it is stated that the appropriation for the repairs of the branch mint at New cleans is not sufficient to make it thoroughly fire-proof and secure as a mint and depository, and estimates are submitted for that purpose. The attention of Congress is called to the condition of the mint at Philadelphia, and of the branch mint at New Orleans, and of the vaults in the Treasury, and such appropriations recommended as will make them fire-proof and perfectly safe. The propriety of an annual appropriation for keeping in repair the vaults and safes for the assistant treasurers and depositories is submitted.

The table 48, which accompanies this report, exhibits fifty-four places, including the marine hospitals, where re-lief is afforded to sick and disabled seamen, under the di-rection of this Department, with the average cost per day of each patient at the several places. It appears the average cost is fair and reasonable at most of the places. out at others it greatly exceeds what it should be Every effort has been made to bring the cost within fair and reasonable limits, but the greatest discrepancies are found in those places where there are but few patients to accommodate, and where it has been found impossible to reduce the items constituting the largest average in the expense, such as compensation of surgeons, &c.

The report of the supervising inspectors of steamboats under the act of 30th of August, 1852, (No. 44,) accompanies this report, as also a letter from Mr. Wm. M. Gouge, charged by this Department with the duty of attending the meetings. The Department also procured Pro-fessor Booth, melter and refiner at the mint in Philadelphia, to experiment upon fusible alloys, in connexion with Evans's safety valves, and otherwise with a view of testing the same, and in order to have reliable alloys should it be determined to continue their use. His report (No. 45) also accompanies this, and gives valuable infor-

mation upon the subject.

The attention of Congress is called to the suggestions in the report of the supervisors, the letter of Mr. Gouge, and the report of Professor Booth. The Department has been furnished with the table 46, which accompanies this report, showing the loss of sixty-three steam vessels from the 1st of January, 1854, to June of the same year, with the causes thereof.

This table exhibits ten by collision, seventeen by fire, five from ice, twenty-three from snags, and states nineteen of them were lost from inattention and negligence, thirty-one from accident, one from being unseaworthy. and only two from unavoidable causes. This exhibit proves that much remains to be done under the steam-boat act to secure capable and efficient officers on steam vessels for the preservation of life. These and the recent losses upon the ocean properly raise the question whether jowe the law should provide greater security in the construc-

been attended with signal success, and resulted in great, tien of steam passenger vessels, or leave them, as now, to

the ship-owners. In my former report the attention of Congress was called to the inconvenience arising from two sets of local inspectors, one under the act of 1838 and the other under the act of 1852, and the propriety of having but one set under the same superintendence. The regulations which the supervising inspectors are authorized to make should also have the approval of the Department, and its supervision in acceptant here.

supervision in enforcing them.

The propriety of providing for supervising inspectors on the Pacific coast was also stated, and is again recom-mended. The attention of Congress is also called to the penalty for collision, under the act of 1838, which only applies to the destruction of life on the vessel the officer mmands, and does not embrace the killing done on the other vessel.

There seems to be no express provision in any act of Congress that the records and papers of the several col-lectors of customs shall be public property and left in the offices for the use of their offices for the use of their successors, nor any provision making it a felony to make false entries in the collectors' books or return false accounts to the Treasury.

It has been customary in many of the districts for the utgoing collector to carry away the books and papers, on the pretence that they were private property, because purchased out of the emoluments of the collector, under the regulations of the Treasury. They have been de-clared by a Treasury circular the property of the United States, and directed to be preserved and handed over to the successor.

The fact that these books were carried away was cause of suspicion as to the integrity of the collectors, and in four ports, to wit, Oswego, Cleveland, Toledo, and Milwaukee, where other strong circumstances strengthened the suspicion, investigations were instituted, with copies of the returns made to the Treasury, and the books and receipts of the importers in the United States and those in Canada examined The accounts of the late collector at Oswego were as-

certained to have suppressed duties actually collected by him to over \$75,000; the collector at Cleveland to an amount almost of \$115,000; the collector at Toledo to an amount of about \$5,000; and the collector at Mil-waukee to over \$3,000. These are the first frauds of this wankee to over \$3,000. These are the first frauds of this description that have ever been brought to light. They are now presented to the consideration of Congress for such additional legislation as may be deemed necessary. In the revision of the revenue laws, prepared at this Department under a resolution of the Senate, and now before that body, clauses have been inserted for the purpose of providing the proper remedy. There has been no revision of the revenue laws since the enactment of 1780. The pressite of a revision is reconcilally was decided to the proper remedy.

The necessity of a revision is respectfully urged upon the consideration of Congress.

In addition to the tables and reports herein before particularly mentioned, various statements of exports and imports, a statement of the persons employed in the seve-

ral collection districts, and a complete set of the circulars issued by this Department since the date of my for-

mer report, also accompany this.

The important interests confided to this Department require that the clerical force should be not only capable. select intermediate stations, so as to make the stations but trustworthy in all respects. I find there has been great improvement in that force. In most cases the best of those found in the office were retained; and, under the system of classification, when vacancies occurred, a was established to promote for capacity and efficiency from the lower to the higher classes, whilst the required examinations have secured more capable clerks for the first class.

The rules of the office are strictly enforced, and there exists commendable industry, capacity, efficiency, and, it is believed, integrity in the corps employed. The Department is being brought into good condition. All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES GUTHRIE. Secretary of the Treasury.

MYSTERIOUS EXPEDITION.

FROM THE NEW YORK EXPRESS. We have lately heard a great deal, in a mysterious way, about a "mysterious expedition" that sailed from New York for St. Thomas on the 9th of September, but never have had any very clear idea of what it was, where bound, or what its object till now. The expedition in question sailed from this port some months since. It consisted of two vessels, the steam-propeller Benjamin Franklin and the barque Catharine Augusta. The next we hear of them is their arrival at St. Thomas for repairs. A rumor got about meanwhile that the strangers were going on a fillibustering expedition to Venezuela. The Consul for that country became alarmed. he having received certain intimations from his Government that it would be well to keep a look-out for strange vessels from the United States. The Consul communicated his apprehensions to the Governor of the island of St. Thomas, who, in turn, notified the United States Commercial Agent, Mr. Helm, that the repairs upon the vessels could be permitted only on condition that the owners would give \$20,000 bonds that they were not acting against any foreign nation; the cargo, however, must not be discharged. Consul Helm replied that, whatever may have been the original intention of the parties in the embarkation of the two vessels in question, he had as ances that there was then no hostile jutention on the part of the owners or agents towards any Government or nation whatever. However, the Consul was willing that the bond should be executed, but contended that the ves-

Since its arrival at St. Thomas the vessel had been offered to the Venezuelian, the Haytien, and the New Grenadian Governments, but no sale could be effected. Capt. Forbes, of her Majesty's corvette Calvoso, and Capt. De Horsey, of the Devastation, it seems, have seen fit to interest themselves very much in the business of the said vessel. They applied to Capt. Helm for some light as to their destination, but that functionary, it seems, declined to comply so long as the American flag was flying over their decks.

sels should discharge cargo in order to go on with their

repairs. This the Governor granted ; and at last accounts

the cargo was going ashore. It would be sold, it is said,

together with the vessel. The cargo of the barque con-

sisted of three hundred tons cannon, a number of mus-

kets, and a large quantity of balls, cartridges, and

We are left to infer from these facts that the expedition will not now proceed to Venezuela, though there seems to be little or no donbt that that was its destination. It is commonly believed that it was started by Gen. Paez to co-operate against the Government of Gen Monagas, the present President of Venezuela.

GOVERNMENT OF KANSAS.

We learn from the St. Louis Republican of the 29th ultimo that great dissatisfaction has sprung up in reference to the delay of Gov. REEDER in ordering the Territorial elections. He has ordered one for a delegate to Congress, but has not appointed a time for the election of a Territorial Council. It is from this body that the laws for the Territory are to emanate, but it is prebable the Governor thinks there are, as yet, not people enough to justify early action. The Republican thinks the President and Congress should interpose and inquire into the cause of delay. We thought Congress had done its work and referred the whole subject to the sovereigns. The Parksville Luminary gives an account of a meet-

ing at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to nominate a candidate for Delegate to Congress. Mr. WHITFIELD, who had been an Indian agent, declared himself a candidate without a nomination; told what he had done and what he thought he could do if sent to Congress. The meeting concluded to make no nomination. After this some of the speakers scolded Gov. REEDER for not ordering an election for the Legislature, and others defended him. stating that he knew his duty and would do it calmiy and with ability. There seems to be an impatience to "wear the blushing honors" of a legislator.

The Widow of William Bradford, Attorney General of Washington's Administration in 1794-'5, died at her residence in Burlington (N. J.) on Thursday last, in the 90th year of her age, having survived her husband sixty years. She was the last surviving widow of the accomplished men who composed Gen. Washington's Cabinet. Mrs. BRADFORD was the only daughter of the Hon. ELIAS BOUDINOT, President (for some time) of the old Continental Congress, Commissary General of Prisoners during the Revolution, and the first Director of the Mint of the United States-an office to which he was appointed by Washington and retained by Jefferson.

SMUGGLING .- Since the arrival of the steamship Africa at the Cunard dock in Jersey city, on Wednesday even-ing, goods to the amount of \$75,000, it is stated, have been discovered in the trunks of passengers who intended to evade the revenue laws. They consist of watches and jewelry, and are in the keeping of the surveyor of the